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NEW SERIES VOL. IV

NOV 19 1918

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

OCTOBER 30, 1918

Some late October colors in the Arboretum. Now that the leaves of the Sweet Gum (*Nyssa*) and the Liquidambar have fallen the most brilliantly colored tree here is the Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) which has no rival among the northern Oaks in the bright scarlet of its shining deeply divided leaves. We are here near the northern limits of the range of this tree and it is not very common in the neighborhood of Boston. In Plymouth County and in some parts of Cape Cod it is a prevailing tree, and to those who love the woods in autumn that part of the state is well worth a visit this week or next. The leaves of only one other Oak turn in the autumn to more brilliant shades of scarlet and that is the Turkey Oak (*Q. Catesbaei*) of the southern states, a smaller tree than the Scarlet Oak but with larger and often more lustrous leaves. Persons who like most northerners know the coast region of South Carolina and Georgia and the Florida peninsula only in late winter or in spring have little idea of the splendor of the color which the Turkey Oak gives that part of the country at the end of November. The leaves of some trees of the Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*) are turning scarlet or scarlet and yellow, and those of other trees are still nearly green, scarlet or nearly green leaves often occurring on the same branch. The Pin Oak is a handsome tree at this time of the year although it is less brilliant and conspicuous than the Scarlet Oak. This is true, too, of the Red Oak, the autumn leaves of which vary on different individuals from yellow to dark red, bright red, red and yellow, and brown. On the trees of the White Oak Group the handsomest autumn foliage is found on the White Oak itself (*Q. alba*). The leaves of this tree turn later than those of most Oaks and when in

perfection are often of a deep rich vinous red color. The other American White Oaks which are hardy here, the Bur Oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), the Swamp White Oak (*Q. bicolor*), the southern Overcup Oak (*Q. lyrata*), the Post Oak (*Q. minor*) and the three Chestnut Oaks (*Q. montana*, *Q. Muehlenbergii* and *Q. prinoides*) turn yellow in part or entirely in the autumn, and from most of these the leaves fall earlier than those of *Q. alba*. Among the White Oaks the leaves of which turn yellow in the autumn a single individual of the Swamp White Oak with large, bright scarlet autumn leaves is a remarkable exception to the general autumn color scheme of these trees. This is one of the most remarkable and interesting trees in the Arboretum collection of Oaks. It is growing in the mixed plantation by the road at the summit of Peter's Hill and was probably raised in the Arboretum, although unfortunately no record of its origin has been kept.

Among the smaller trees with scarlet or crimson autumn foliage none is more beautiful now than the so-called Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) which is unusually brilliant this year in its shades of crimson, scarlet and green. Its autumn beauty is increased by the contrast of the color on the upper and lower surface of the leaves for only the upper surface changes color, the lower surface retaining the pale some times nearly white color of the summer. Another tree with leaves red or scarlet on the upper surface and pale on the lower surface, *Acer nikkoense*, is well worth the attention of persons interested in the autumn color of tree leaves. *Acer nikkoense* is a native of the mountain forests of central Japan and is one of the species with compound leaves related to the Ash-leaved Maple or Box Elder (*Acer Negundo*) of the United States. There are several good specimens of this handsome tree in the mixed plantation on the road near the top of Peter's Hill where the leaves of these trees are now beginning to change color. Another small Maple from northern Japan, *A. Sieboldianum*, has been conspicuous this year in the intense scarlet of its leaves which are now beginning to fall. The best plants in the Arboretum of this tree are also in the mixed plantation on Peter's Hill.

Several plants are interesting now from the dark purple color of their autumn leaves. Among these is a variety of *Prunus serrulata* (var. *pubescens*), a large pink-flowered Cherry raised from seeds collected by Wilson in western China. One of the Japanese species of *Stuartia* (*S. pseudocamellia*) has autumn leaves even darker than those of this Cherry. This *Stuartia* is a hardy little tree with pale smooth bark exfoliating in large thin scales and white flowers which look like those of a single-flowered *Camellia*, and open in summer. There are good specimens of this tree on the left-hand side of Azalea Path. *Akebia quinata*, the Japanese species with leaves composed of five leaflets and small dark purple flowers, is well known in American gardens. The leaves fall late in the autumn without having changed color. The other Japanese species, *A. lobata*, is less well known in this country. From the other species it differs chiefly in the three, not five, rather larger leaflets which turn late in the autumn to a handsome dark bronze color. In this country the *Akebias* rarely produce fruit, which resembles in shape a short thick banana and is pale violet in color. It

contains many small seeds imbedded in sweet juicy insipid pulp of which the Japanese appear fond, as the fruit of *A. lobata* is found in September in great quantities in the markets of the towns of northern Japan.

Vaccinium Carlesii, although discovered in Korea only a few years ago, is fast becoming a popular garden plant in the United States where it is admired for its compact clusters of fragrant white flowers which open from rose-colored buds, closed buds and open flowers occurring together in the same cluster. The value of this handsome little shrub is increased by the autumn color of the leaves which are now dark bronze purple. Little has been known of this plant in its native country but Mr. Wilson, who has passed the last two summers in Korea, writes of it, "This is a maritime species fond of cliffs and rocky soil; it grows in localities rather remote one from the other and is nowhere common."

Witch Hazels (*Hamamelis*). The different species of this genus add to the interest of the Arboretum in the autumn and winter by the colors of their leaves and the opening of their flowers. The first species to change its color is *Hamamelis japonica*, one of the winter-flowering species. The leaves of the other Witch Hazels turn bright clear yellow in the autumn, but the autumn color of the leaves of the Japanese species is scarlet and orange. During a week early in October the leaves were brilliant but they have now fallen. The pale clear yellow autumn leaves of the eastern American species (*H. virginiana*) have nearly all fallen from the branches which are now covered with pale yellow flowers. The leaves of the other American species (*H. vernalis*) are still green on some individuals and on others are beginning to turn yellow. Toward the end of December or early in January this shrub, which grows naturally along small streams in southern Missouri, will be covered with flowers. The dull blue-green leaves of the Chinese *Hamamelis mollis* are still as green as they were in mid-summer but later they will turn to a beautiful shade of pale yellow. The flowers of this remarkable plant open usually late in January or early in February and are larger and more conspicuous than those of the American or Japanese species. No winter garden can be complete without these winter-flowering shrubs.

Enkianthus. The autumn colors of the leaves of the four Japanese species of this genus of the Heath Family which are established in the Arboretum have been remarkably brilliant during October and it is unfortunate that these handsome plants are not more generally found in gardens in those parts of the United States where the presence of lime does not make the cultivation of plants of the Heath family impossible. All the species have bell-shaped flowers arranged in gracefully drooping clusters, but their greatest beauty is in the color of their autumn leaves. This is scarlet, crimson or deep wine color on the different species. The deep crimson or scarlet colors which the leaves of *E. perulatus* or *japonicus* assume make this the showiest of the species at this season and one of the most popular plants in Japan where it is usually cut into dense round balls. In the Arboretum this shrub has

not produced seeds and it has remained rarer in this country even than the other species. The large group of these plants on the right-hand side of Azalea Path shows the habit and autumn coloring of the leaves of the different species.

Blueberries in autumn. The leaves of all the deciduous-leaved Blueberries and Huckleberries turn bright scarlet late in the autumn, and as a ground cover in native woods there are no more beautiful plants than the three dwarf Blueberries of the eastern states, *Vaccinium pennsylvanicum*, *V. canadense*, *V. vacillans*. In the whole northern hemisphere there is hardly a shrub which equals the Highbush Blueberry, *V. corymbosum*, for the decoration of New England gardens. The white flowers in drooping clusters are beautiful, the blue-black fruits are even more beautiful than the flowers, but it is in the late autumn that this shrub is most valuable as a garden or woodside ornament for the crimson of its autumn leaves is not surpassed in intensity by that of any other shrub. There is considerable variety in the shades of color in the leaves of different individuals, and on some plants crimson and green leaves are found together. There are a number of plants of this Blueberry on the sides of Azalea Path near its entrance from Bussey Hill Road which show the variety of autumn leaf color of this Blueberry.

Forsythias. The leaves of all the Forsythias usually fall, like those of the garden Lilacs, without having greatly changed color, but occasional plants of *F. suspensa* var. *Fortunii* occur on which the upper surface of the leaves turn bronze purple while the lower surface retains its summer color. Such plants are more valuable than those with green autumn leaves and should be propagated.

Barberries in late October. The leaves of many of the Barberries in the Arboretum collection have now turned crimson, scarlet, or scarlet and orange, making these plants which are now covered with scarlet fruit conspicuous. Of the species closely related to the common Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) the handsomest perhaps is the Japanese *Berberis Regelii*, a large shrub with large pale flowers, large fruit and leaves which turn orange and scarlet. Although still rare here, this plant was brought to the United States more than fifty years ago and was long cultivated in the Parsons' Nursery on Long Island as *Berberis Hakkodate*. The Chinese *B. diaphana* is probably now the handsomest of the species with dark crimson autumn foliage. This is a low, round-topped shrub broader than high, with large solitary flowers which rarely produces fruit here. The only objection to it is that the leaves unfold so late that the plants appear dead when other Barberries are covered with nearly fully grown leaves. Among the new Chinese species the most beautiful Barberry in the autumn is *B. circumserrata*, a small round-topped shrub with large solitary flowers and leaves which in another week will be of as brilliant shades of scarlet as those of any plant in the Arboretum. Other species which are particularly attractive this week are *B. koreana*, *B. lucida*, *B. amurensis*, and *B. dictyophylla*.